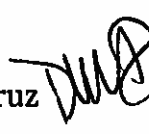




CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 2
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
AND SERVICES
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5002
FAX: (808) 768-5035
EMAIL: dmdelacruz@honolulu.gov

March 25, 2010

TO: Mr. Clayton Wong, Fiscal Officer
FROM: Councilmember Donovan M. Dela Cruz 
RE: 2010 NACo Legislative Conference Trip Report

Attached is the report and findings of the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., March 6-10, 2009.

If you have questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to call me directly.

Attachment

Monday, March 8, 2010

Arrive in Washington, D.C.

Register for Conference

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 am Educational Session Block I

❖ *Sustainable Communities Resources: Incentive Grants for Regional Planning and Development Projects*

- Guest Speakers:
 - Beth Cooper, Professional Staff Member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
 - Jared Land, Program Manager, Community Services, NACO
 - Tim Torma, Development, Community and Environment Division, U.S. EPA The Smart Growth Program
- Workshop outlined various regional planning projects for transportation, housing and the environment through the federal government.
- Speakers talked about identifying the type of sustainability projects that would be eligible for federal funding through the Livable Communities Act of 2009
- The Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the EPA are offering a number of resources to foster sustainable community planning and development. These agencies formed a Partnership for Sustainable Communities that seeks to integrate policy on housing, transportation, water infrastructure, and land use planning and investment

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon Educational Session Block II

❖ *The New 'National Institute of Food and Agriculture' – What are the impacts on local county residents?*

- Guest Speakers:
 - Dr. Ralph Otto, Associate Administrator, National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), formally known as the USDA's Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, recently went under a restructuring of the agency.
- Workshop outlined the changes within NIFA and discussed the impacts on counties that have access to the local extension office.
- Honolulu County's extension office is with cooperation with the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Attended Opening General Session

- ❖ President Valerie Brown welcomed NACo members and provided opening remarks

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❖ Guest Speakers:

- Honorable Gerry Connolly (D-VA), U.S. House of Representatives
 - Rep. Connolly, a former 14-year Fairfax County Supervisor, discussed the challenges of working with other legislators who are unfamiliar with how local government works.
 - He also expressed his opposition to a U.S. Senate proposal to tax municipal bonds which would add additional costs to Capital Improvement Projects and cost taxpayers more money for infrastructure improvement in the long run.
- Joe Klein, columnist, *Time Magazine*
 - Mr. Klein spoke about the political climate in Washington D.C. in relationship to the health care reform debate.
 - Mr. Klein asked the question *'Why do we need health care reform when 80 percent of Americans are happy with what they have?'* He noted to arguments - one economic and one moral: to remain competitive with countries that guarantee or subsidize health care and the "short-term moral problem" that at least 30 million Americans have no health care, and a large percentage fear losing what they have.
 - Mr. Klein also noted that Washington D.C. is in an era of Congressional deadlock which might result in Republicans not picking up seats in the midterm elections as they have been able to in previous elections due to the President not having a high approval rating

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

8:30 am – 10:15 am Attended 2nd General Session

- ❖ President Valerie Brown welcomed NACo members and provided opening remarks
- ❖ Guest Speakers:
 - Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives
 - Speaker Pelosi spoke of the priorities of her and President Obama's Administration – jobs and health care reform
 - Speaker noted legislation that would provide \$15 billion for infrastructure investments in local communities. She also mentioned that the health care form bill would create 4 million jobs in its life

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- Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - Ms. Sebelius praised the counties for their efforts in curbing the spread of H1N1 virus throughout the county
 - She also noted that State health and human services budgets are usually the first to get cut by elected officials, but noted that the Recovery Act has helped fund safety net services
- Melody Barnes, President Obama's Domestic Policy Council head
 - Ms. Barnes thanked several county commissioners for their leadership in health care reform
 - Ms. Barnes discussed programs that the Obama administration has begun to reflect the philosophy of government – *people and place-based*
 - She highlighted the Promise Neighborhoods and Choice Neighborhoods initiatives from the Department of Education and HUD, Department of Transportation and EPA
- William Spriggs, Department of Labor Assistant Secretary
 - Assistant Secretary Spriggs stated that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) wants to make sure that all Americans have jobs that pay a fair wage, provide work and life flexibility, and provide a safe work environment

10:45 am – 12:00 pm Attended Educational Session Block III

❖ *Economic Development in the Face of Recession and a Networked World*

- Guest Speakers:
 - Phil Bertolini, Sr., Deputy County Executive/CIO, Oakland County, MI
 - Honorable Mike Gillespie, Chairman, Madison County, AL
 - Ira Levy, Chief Performance Officer/Chief Information Officer, Howard County, MD
- Workshop outlined the challenges of several counties as the global communications networks grow in capability and eliminates many advantages of physical location
- Discussed how three different counties developed strategies for continued economic growth and development

12:15 pm – 2:30 pm Attended Luncheon

❖ Guest Speaker:

- U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack
 - Secretary Vilsack advocated any program that encourages a regional approach to planning

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- He also noted that the Department of Agriculture can provide support to rural counties through the various programs they offer. DOA can help with expanding broadband access, assist in bio-fuel energy production and expanding ecosystem markets and natural habitats

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm Attended Educational Session Block IV

❖ *What USDA Grant and Loan Opportunities Are Available for Your County?*

- Guest Speakers:
 - Cheryl Cook, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - Jennifer Yezak, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Workshop outlined USDA grant and loan programs that are available

Wednesday, March 10

Hawaii Congressional Delegation Visits

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: March 16, 2010

Traveler: Donovan Dela Cruz

Event: 2010 NACo Legislative Conference

Location: Washington, D.C.

Dates: From March 6, 2010 To March 10, 2010

Description	Amount	Notes
1. Registration Fee	\$465.00	Online invoice attached
2. Airfare	\$770.14	DR: 3/7/10 5:05 pm RT: 3/11/10 3:15 pm
3. Hotel	\$704.19	
4. Meals	\$7.00	Receipt attached
5. Ground Transportation	\$11.00	Receipt attached
6. Tips	\$8.00	Tally tap attached
7. Other	\$14.99	Airflight Insurance Premium
Other	\$9.95	Travel Delay
Other	\$9.95	Baggage Insurance Premium
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	\$2,000.22	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:



Signature of Traveler

Date